

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/874,253

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

Applicant(s)

NOZAWA, SHINGO

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/13/2006 & 7/13/2006 and phone interview on 9/8/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 14-17, 19, 20, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/13/2006 & 6/13/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, filed 6/13/2006, with respect to claims 1-6, 14-17, 19, 20, 27, 29, 31 & 33 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of these claims has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank L. Cire (Reg. No. 42,419) on 9/8/2006.

The application has been amended as follows: (Note that amendments are shown in underline and/or strikethrough.)

In the title:

The title "Imaging Apparatus" has been replaced by a new title -- Imaging Apparatus And Processing Method For Converting The Number Of Pixels Of An Input Image --.

In the claims:

Claims 8-13, 18, 26, 28 & 32 have been canceled.

Regarding **claim 14**, the limitations "reducing means for performing reduction processing on said image signal generated by said enlarging means to generate an image signal corresponding to said second predetermined image size;" **have been amended as** -- reducing means for performing reduction processing on said image signal generated by said enlarging means to generate an image signal corresponding to said second predetermined image size, wherein said second predetermined image size has smaller resolutions than resolutions of said first predetermined image size; --.

Regarding **claim 16**, the limitations "reducing means for performing reduction processing on the image signal processed by said enlarging means by using a fixed factor;" **have been amended as** -- reducing means for performing reduction processing on the image signal processed by said enlarging means by using a fixed factor to reduce vertical and horizontal resolutions of the processed image signal; --.

Regarding **claim 29**, the limitations “performing reduction processing on the generated image signal so as to generate the image signal corresponding to said second image size;” **have been amended as** -- performing reduction processing on the generated image signal so as to generate the image signal corresponding to said second predetermined image size, wherein said second predetermined image size has smaller resolutions than resolutions of said first predetermined image size; --.

Regarding **claim 33**, the limitations “performing reduction processing on the generated image signal so that the image signal corresponding to said second image size is generated;” **have been amended as** -- performing reduction processing on the generated image signal so that the image signal corresponding to said second predetermined image size is generated, wherein said second predetermined image size has smaller resolutions than resolutions of said first predetermined image size; --.

Regarding claim 34, the limitations “a recording step for recording the image signal corresponding to the image having an number of M pixels by N pixels generated in said reduction step on a recording medium.” **have been amended as** -- a recording step for recording the image signal corresponding to the image having an a number of M pixels by N pixels generated in said reduction step on a recording medium. –

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-6, 14-17, 19, 20, 27, 29, 31, 33 & 34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations required in claim 1 that includes “...a reducing unit which generates a reduced image signal corresponding to a reduced image having a predetermined number of M pixels by N pixels which is not greater than the predetermined number of P pixels by Q pixels in vertical and horizontal directions by performing reduction processing on the enlarged image signal corresponding to the enlarged image having the number of P pixels by Q pixels; and a recording unit for recording the image signal outputted by said reducing means on a recording medium, wherein the enlarged image signal is inhibited from the being recorded on the recording medium.”

Regarding claim 14, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations required in claim 14 that includes “...reducing means for performing reduction processing on said image signal generated by said enlarging means to generate an image signal corresponding to said second predetermined image size, wherein said second predetermined image size has smaller resolutions than resolutions of said first predetermined image size; and recording means for recording the image signal corresponding to said second predetermined image size generated by said reducing means on a recording medium, wherein said image signal generated by said enlarging means is inhibited from being recorded on the recording medium.”

Regarding claim 16, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations required in claim 16 that includes “...reducing means for

performing reduction processing on the image signal processed by said enlarging means by using a fixed factor to reduce vertical and horizontal resolutions of the processed image signal; and recording means for recording the image signal corresponding to a second predetermined image size generated by said reducing means on a recording medium, wherein the image signal processed by said enlarging means is inhibited from being recorded on the recording medium.

Regarding claims 19 & 20, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations required in claim 19 that includes “...**reducing means for generating a reduced image signal corresponding to a reduced image having a predetermined number of M pixels by N pixels which is not greater than the predetermined number of P pixels by Q pixels in vertical and horizontal directions by performing finite-impulse-response filtering on the enlarged image signal corresponding to the enlarged image having the number of P pixels by Q pixels; and recording means for recording the image signal outputted by said reducing means on a recording medium, wherein the enlarged image signal is inhibited from being recorded on the recording medium.**”

Regarding claim 27, this method claim has all limitations corresponding to the apparatus claim 1, and is therefore allowed for the similar reasons provided in claim 1.

Regarding claim 29, this method has all limitations corresponding to the apparatus claim 14, and is therefore allowed for the similar reasons provided in claim 14.

Regarding claim 31, this computer program product claim also has all limitations corresponding to the apparatus claim 1 or method claim 27, and is therefore allowed for the similar reasons provided in claim 1.

Regarding claim 33, this computer program product claim also has all limitations corresponding to the apparatus claim claim14 or method claim 29, and is therefore allowed for the similar reason provided in claim 14.

Regarding claim 34, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations required in claim 34 that includes “...**a reducing step for generating an interlaced image signal corresponding to an interlaced image having the number of M pixels by performing reduction processing on the generated progressive image signal in units of frames; and a recording step for recording the image signal corresponding to the image having a number of pixels by N pixels generated in said reduction step on a recording medium.**”

Regarding claims 2-6, these claims are allowed as being dependent from claim 1.

Regarding claim 15, this claim is allowed as being dependent from claim 14.

Regarding claim 17, this claim is allowed as being dependent from claim 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NT.


DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER